

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07000 080419Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 DHA-02 CU-04 EB-08 /071 W  
-----027313 080424Z /17  
R 071214Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3937

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7000

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: IR, PINT  
SUBJ: SHAH'S CONSTITUTION DAY SPEECH

REF: TEHRAN 6636

1. THE 71ST ANNIVERSARY OF IRAN'S CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION ON AUGUST 5 WAS THE OCCASION FOR A SPEECH TO THE NATION BY THE SHAH. REFERRING TO IRAN'S RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ANCIENT CIVILIZATION, THE SHAH SAID THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD RETAIN ITS OWN CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY AS PRACTICED AND WOULD AVOID DISRUPTIVE PRACTICES CREATED BY DEMOCRACY ABROAD. SPECIFICALLY HE SAID: "DEMOCRACY THAT ENTAILS TURMOIL AND BREEDS ANARCHY HAS ADVERSE EFFECTS FOR OTHERS AS WELL AS BEING TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO OURSELVES."

2. EMPHASIZING THE RIGHTS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO IRANIANS, THE SHAH SINGLED OUT THE RASTAKHIZ PARTY AS A FORUM FOR FREE EXPRESSION AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE VICTORY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION, THE PEOPLE HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION WHICH EMBRACES ALL IRANIANS AND FACILITATES THEIR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS, ACCORDING TO THE SHAH. THROUGH A RASTAKHIZ PARTY DIALOGUE THENATION'S POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS IS CONSTANTLY ENRICHED AND STRENGTHENED, HE ADDED.  
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3. COMMENT: BY STRESSING TRADITIONAL IRANIAN VALUES AND REJECTING THE "IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN DEMOCRACY" THE SHAH ELABORATED ON A THEME RECENTLY INITIATED BY RASTAKHIZ PARTY CONSTRUCTIVE WING LEADER HUSHANG ANSARY (REFTEL). AN UNDERLYING THEME EMERGING FROM RECENT PRONOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS IS THAT POLITICAL DEMOCRACY, AS PRACTICED

IN WESTERN INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, CANNOT BE STABLE AND LONG  
LASTING IN IRAN UNLESS BASED UPON STRONG ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY.  
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS BRING ABOUT WHAT  
THE LEADERSHIP JUDGES TO BE "POLITICAL MATURITY" THE  
RASTAKHIZ PARTY WILL SERVE AS THE APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENT  
FOR POLITICAL EXPRESSION.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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